

WM
28
AD6
G7

REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

THE RELEASE

FROM THE

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE

OF

ICERTAIN PERSONS ADMITTED THERETO UPON THE
ORDER OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING
1875.

18
5
70

MAY 4 1962

REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

THE RELEASE

FROM THE

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE

OF

CERTAIN PERSONS ADMITTED THERETO UPON THE
ORDER OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1875.

REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, D. C., August 12, 1875.

SIR: I observe by recent publications in several of the newspapers of this city and elsewhere that it is charged that you have improperly discharged patients from the insane asylum of which you are superintendent, and that in consequence of such discharges unnecessary suffering has been inflicted upon unfortunates who had been intrusted to your care.

No formal charges have been filed in the Department, nor has the subject been brought to the attention of the Department, excepting as stated above; and while it is not customary to notice such matters until presented in some tangible, specific form, the proper treatment of the unfortunate class placed in your charge appeals so directly to the sympathies of the people, and so much feeling has been elicited by the publications referred to, that I deem it my duty to call the subject to your attention.

You are therefore requested to report:—

1. The number and character of patients discharged by you within the past twelve months, with the authority on which such discharges were made;

2. The law and regulations under which patients are admitted by the officers of the District government, and the custom of the superintendent or the rule of the institution in regard to the discharge of such patients; and

3. The custom of the superintendent of your asylum and of the superintendents of other similar institutions with which you are, or have been, familiar in regard to the discharge of patients under treatment.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

Dr. C. H. NICHOLS,

Superintendent Government Hospital for Insane, Washington, D. C.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,

Near Washington, D. C., August 16, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 12th instant, in relation to the alleged improper discharge of certain patients from the hospital, and respectfully submit the report called for. In requesting me to report "the number and character of patients discharged by you [me] within the past twelve months, with the authority on which such discharges were made," I infer that you intended to embrace only indigent insane persons who did not reside in the District of Columbia at the time they became insane, and were sent

to the hospital by the authorities of the District, as the complaints referred to by you relate mainly to persons of that class. If you should wish a report of the discharges of patients of other classes, it will be my agreeable duty to furnish it.

To put you in full possession of all the facts and circumstances necessary to a clear understanding of my relations to the care and discharge of non-resident indigent insane, within the past twelve months, I inclose herewith copies of (1) the fourth section of act of Congress approved February 7, 1857; under which such patients are received into the hospital; (2) of an opinion of the attorney of the District of Columbia, under date of February 4, 1875; (3) of a letter of the secretary of the commissioners of the District of Columbia, transmitting the foregoing opinion, and requesting information and recommendations looking to the relief of the District from the expense of supporting such insane persons; (4) of a letter dated February 15, 1875, addressed to the commissioners of the District by the superintendent of the hospital, in answer to the opinion of the attorney of the District, and in compliance with the request of the secretary of the commissioners, including (5) tabular statement which accompanied the superintendent's letter, to which are now added the names and character of two transient insane persons admitted to the hospital, at the request of the District commissioners, since the statement was originally prepared; and (6) of a statement of Maj. A. C. Richards, superintendent of the metropolitan police force, dated August 6, 1875, and published in several of the District newspapers.

I now proceed to return categorical answers to your inquiries in the order in which they are propounded:

1. Twenty-one patients, fifteen males and six females, admitted upon the application of the municipal authorities of the District, under section 4, act approved February 7, 1857, were discharged from the hospital within the past twelve months. For the character and the date and manner of discharge of each case, I respectfully refer you to the tabular statement herewith, numbered 5.

All of the above patients were discharged by the authority and agency of the commissioners of the District of Columbia, except Louisa Waldron, who eloped on the night of the 3d of May, 1875. This woman succeeded in making her escape from her attendant while walking out with others on April 8, 1875, and was retaken in a few hours. At the time of her final elopement she left a note, saying, in substance, that she was about to leave the building with the aid of a key that she had got possession of. We never were able to account for her having a key. Immediately upon the discovery of her elopement, diligent efforts were made to find her and bring her back to the hospital, but nothing could be heard in relation to her until some days had elapsed, when we learned that she had left the District. A friend of Mr. Force, upon my representation that the commissioners of the District proposed to remove from the hospital such of the transient patients chargeable to the District as were in a condition to be removed, procured his admission to the Maryland Hospital for the Insane, and transferred him from this institution to that. This occurred, however, after the commissioners had provided for sending Mr. Force to Baltimore.

As far as they are known to me, the facts in relation to the discharge of the remaining nineteen transient insane persons from the hospital within the last twelve months are as follows: Some days—I think some weeks—after I had sent my letter numbered 4, with the accompanying tabular statement of the cases, to the commissioners of the District,

Maj. A. C. Richards informed me, at police headquarters, in substance, that the commissioners of the District had sent for him and requested him to act as their agent in sending to their friends or places of residence such of the insane supported by the District as were in a condition to be properly removed from the hospital. I scarcely need say to you that I did not entertain a shadow of a doubt that Major Richards was acting at the request and with the authority of the District commissioners, as he represented; but had I for one moment entertained such a doubt, it would have been dispelled by his taking from his desk, early in this conversation, the original statement of the cases, (copy herewith, numbered 5,) prepared for the commissioners at their request, and furnished only to them, saying that they had put the document into his hands as a guide in the execution of the task he had consented to undertake at their urgent request, in the interests of the District. I recollect a slight sense of surprise at seeing this document in the possession of the superintendent of police, as I had not thought of his being aware of its existence. As well as I recollect, the conversation was confined on this occasion to a brief consideration of individual cases, in respect to their fitness to be sent away, and to suggestions in respect to the practicability and manner of acquiring further information regarding their friends or places of legal residence. I think I suggested that unless they were sent to friends or communities that could be relied on to take proper care of them, these patients should not be sent away until the weather became warm, when some of them could very well take care of themselves. I am confident that I made this suggestion at one of the early conversations I had with him in relation to this matter, but whether it was at the first conversation or not I am not sure. Major Richards and I had several later brief conversations in relation to the removal of these patients. I think that the most of them originated with me, as, on account of the very crowded state of the hospital, I was anxious to have them removed as soon as practicable and proper. When the subject of their removal was thus referred to, the major informed me that he had taken steps, by correspondence and otherwise, to obtain additional information respecting the friends or places of residence of these patients and the responsibility the one or the other were disposed to assume in relation to their care. At last he informed me, in the early part of June, I think, that he had obtained all the information in relation to them that he expected to be able to obtain; that the commissioners had continued to urge him to send them to their homes and thus relieve the District of the expense of their maintenance; and that they would soon be removed from the hospital. Subsequently, before removing any of them, Major Richards, accompanied by Detective McDevitt, who had escorted some such patients to their homes previous to the last twelve months, (and in doing it had, as I have always believed, acted with great discretion and humanity,) visited the hospital and saw and conversed with every one of these patients, for the purpose, as I understood him and now believe, of ascertaining at the latest moment, by personal examination and conversation with the medical officers of the institution, which of them were in a condition to go to their homes without escorts, which of them required escorts, and which of them, if any, were not in a condition of health to be properly sent away. Finally, notice was given from time to time, by telegraph, that the commissioners had furnished transportation for certain of these patients, with or without escorts, and that they would be sent away at hours and by trains of cars designated in the dispatch, with the request that I would send them either to police headquarters or the proper depot. They were sent accordingly, and delivered

by the attendants who accompanied them from the hospital to the officers who had been designated as escorts, or to furnish them tickets and see them off. I might here say that it has always been the custom of the hospital to send to the depot, in an appropriate vehicle belonging to the institution, all patients who have left it to go to distant homes, excepting only a few cases of private patients of ample means. Sixteen were sent to town in that way at different times. The remaining three that have been discharged, belonged in the neighboring county of Prince George in Maryland. On the morning of June 28, 1875, I received notice that they would be called for at 9 o'clock that evening. Either at the time of the notice or when the officers came for them in a carriage—neither the assistant physician who had immediate charge of these patients at the time, nor I can distinctly recollect which—we were informed that they were to be taken to their places of residence at or near Upper Marlborough, and that the reason for making the journey of some sixteen miles in the night was that it could be made at that time most comfortably both to man and beast. This was during the "hot term," in the latter part of June. The foregoing embraces, as far as I can recollect, every material fact at any time within my knowledge in relation to the recent discharge of these transient insane patients from the hospital. Being very closely occupied with the care and varied interests of the large number of patients for whom the hospital was established and is maintained by the Government, and with important improvements and other business of the institution, and considering that in furnishing the information and suggestions I had done, I had discharged my full duty and responsibility in the premises, and having no reason in past experience for entertaining the slightest suspicion that any wrong would be done these unfortunates in any way, I certainly did not seek any knowledge of the arrangements of the commissioners or their agents for the final disposition of these patients, nor did I in truth possess any such knowledge beyond the notices of the times when and trains by which they would be sent away. The law shows very plainly that I had no official duty or responsibility in the matter of ascertaining the places of residence or the friends of these patients, nor any power to retain them in the hospital after they were called for by the District authorities, or to direct the manner in which they should be sent away or disposed of after removal. My letter to the District commissioners, in reply to the opinion of their attorney, and the request for information communicated to me by their secretary, was written not as a duty imposed upon me by law, nor as the agent of the commissioners, but as an aid to them in the discharge of their duty. The tenor of the attorney's opinion, of the secretary's letter, and of my reply, shows that the view I have just expressed was that entertained both by the commissioners and myself at the time that correspondence took place. And yet, if I had had the slightest reason to imagine that these patients would be unkindly treated while on their way to their homes, or improperly disposed of in the course of the journey or at the end of it, I should have deemed it my duty—not so much an official duty as a personal duty of humanity—to have remonstrated against it and endeavored to prevent it. Not a small part of my time is occupied in advising the management or regimen best calculated to promote the health and happiness of patients that are about to leave the hospital or have been under its care.

2. Section 4 of the act of Congress approved February 7, 1857, and section 4918 of the Revised Statutes, constitute the law under which the class of patients referred to in this communication have been admitted

to the hospital, the most of them under the original act of 1857. There have been no express regulations in relation to their admission. They have been admitted simply upon the application or request of the mayor of Washington (none having been sent from Georgetown or the county before the consolidation of the municipalities of the District) or of the governor or the commissioners of the District, in conformity with the requirements of the statute. In most cases, as I have understood, such patients have been arrested by the police; and when it has been ascertained that such a person was insane, and had recently come into the District, without friends or means of support, the chief of police has requested the proper municipal authority to send him to the hospital. If the application of the superintendent of police has been granted by the municipal authority, the patient has been taken to the hospital by a police officer detailed for the purpose, the expense of conveyance being defrayed by the authority granting the application. 9

Persons sent to the hospital by the District authorities have always been considered as sustaining to the institution the relations of *private* or *pay* patients, and, except in case of death or elopement, have been discharged by the authority or successor of the authority that applied for their admission and supported them while under treatment. In no case, I think, has a written authority to discharge a patient been received; but, prior to the recent removals, the recovery or improvement of the patient and his fit condition to leave the hospital have been reported to the proper municipal authority, which has authorized his discharge by furnishing transportation to his home for himself and for an attendant, when the latter has been necessary.

3. Except in the cases of what are called the criminal insane, and in a few cases, perhaps, in New York and New Jersey, and possibly in some other States, in which what are called *indigent* insane persons, sent to the State institutions by the county judges, are entitled by law to treatment for a definite term, if not sooner cured, I believe it to be everywhere the rule that the public authority or private party that places an insane person in an institution for the insane and pays his expenses therein, has the power to remove him whenever it or he sees fit. In most cases the public authority or private individual is governed by the advice of the superintendent having the care of the patient as to the removal or the continuance of treatment, but exceptions to that rule are constantly occurring. A penurious public authority will remove a pauper patient to a town or county almshouse against the advice of a superintendent who thinks he might be benefited by further treatment; and the nearest relative or guardian of an independent or private patient, from penuriousness or lack of means, often removes him to his home, or, from fickleness of purpose or lack of confidence in the treatment he is receiving, places him in another institution or tries some other mode of treatment. It is of course the duty of the superintendent to give such advice in all such cases as he thinks best calculated to promote the welfare and safety both of the patient and of his friends and the community; but with the exceptions referred to, no cases occur to me in which it is not both the rule and the custom for the public authority or private citizen who places an insane person in an institution, whether public or private, and pays his expenses therein, to remove such patient whenever he pleases, and there is no power in the government of the institution that can legally prevent it. This should be so, for obvious reasons. The power of removal must be lodged somewhere, and while it rightfully belongs to the party that incurs the pecuniary obligations attendant upon treatment in an institution for the insane, it

is least likely to be exercised to the detriment of the patient by those who have incurred such obligations, either from their public positions or their personal relationships.

For prudential reasons most institutions require of private parties an obligation, with sureties, that they will remove the patients placed under treatment whenever the superintendent requests them to do so.

In the case of indigent or pauper insane provided for by the legislature, whether national or State, except in the event of recovery or death, such care of them ceases under special provisions of the act organizing and governing the charity; but in order that no civil patient, though a life-provision is made for him in the national institution, should be placed beyond the reach of his friends, it is provided in section 9 of the act approved February 7, 1857, that any person, by giving bond, to be approved by the district court, or any judge thereof in vacation, can gain possession and control of any independent or indigent insane friend, relative, or ward.

In conclusion, it seems to me right to say that Congress, as I personally know, made the provision for transient poor insane contained in section 4 of the act approved February 7, 1857, with the most liberal and humane intent. It was to prevent the necessity of the incarceration of a friendless, wandering lunatic, not charged with a breach of the peace, in the United States jail or penitentiary in this District, (forbidden by the first section of the same act,) where, in addition to the odor of criminality attending a custody of penal form, he could not have proper treatment nor readily be brought within the reach of authorities whose proper interest it would be to send him to his home or friends. Under the operation of the law making this beneficent provision, thirty-four transient insane persons have been tenderly, and, I believe, skillfully cared for here, some of them for several years, and the great law of humanity fulfilled toward them. If they have not been sent to their homes as soon as they might have been, there is, it seems to me, some, if not much, excuse for the delay, in the frequent changes that have taken place in District affairs and officials in the course of the last five or six years, and the inexperience and unsettlement that have necessarily attended such changes; and in sending these unfortunates to their places of legal residence, I feel confident, from inquiries made and the very good character of most of the officers that have accompanied them, that they have been kindly and comfortably cared for on the journey. Two of these patients, both women, remain in the institution, and cannot be properly sent away in their present condition, unless transferred directly to another institution.

In regard to the three persons—one woman and two men—taken to the neighboring county of Prince George, in Maryland, while I highly disapprove of the manner in which they were disposed of, and certainly shall not volunteer an apology for such a reprehensible proceeding, I am glad to be able to inform you that, the night having been very warm and pleasant throughout, no suffering appears to have been experienced by those persons from the manner in which they were disposed of. Two of them were cases of mild, harmless dementia, and could very well take care of themselves in the summer season and in an agricultural community with which they are well acquainted—as well as many simple ignorant people who are not considered insane. One of these two, the woman, has twice visited the hospital since her discharge, and though her health was very good when she left the institution, it appears to have been improved by the change. When last here she said she was living with a sister, who is in service in a family near Upper Marlbor-

ough. The other of these two has been here once, and was as well, at least, as when he left. The third person of those discharged in Prince George's is a man of more natural capacity than either of the other two, and had suffered from a more active form of disease than they, but for several months he had been quite free from any active manifestations of mental aberration, and had been considerably and safely trusted. He appeared to be as well able to provide for himself at the time he left as he had probably been for many years, though always at large, as I have understood, until brought here. Two of this man's connections have visited the hospital since he left, and made no complaint either on account of his discharge or the manner of it or suffering arising from it. He appears to be thoroughly acquainted with the territory and people of Prince George. For these reasons I conclude that he has not suffered from being set at liberty in the manner he was.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. H. NICHOLS,
Superintendent.

Hon. B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

"And be it further enacted, That any indigent insane person who did not reside in the District at the time he or she became insane may, in like manner as provided in the second section of this act, be admitted into the said hospital, upon the application of the corporate authorities of the city of Washington or of Georgetown, and at the expense of either of the said cities during the continuance of said insane person therein, it being hereby designed to give the superintendent thereof authority to take charge of such insane person until the authorities aforesaid can discover who his or her friends are, or whence he or she came, with a view to the return of such person to such friends, or to the place of his or her residence, and thus relieve said corporate authorities of the expense and charge of said indigent insane non-resident." (Section 4, act of Congress approved February 7, 1857.)

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D. C., February 4, 1875.

To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia :

I return herewith a communication from the superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, transmitting bill for board, medical treatment, and clothing of patients admitted to the institution under authority of section 4 of the act of Congress approved February 7, 1857, for the quarter ending December 31, 1874, and amounting to \$1,312.84.

The enactment referred to provides in substance that indigent insane persons, not residing in the District at the time of becoming insane, may be admitted into the hospital, upon the application of the corporate authorities of Washington and Georgetown, and at the expense of either of said cities during the continuance of such insane persons therein; it being the purpose of the law that the superintendent of the asylum shall have authority to take charge of such insane per-

sons until discovery by the local authorities as to the friends of such insane persons, or whence they came, with a view to the return of such persons to their friends or to the place of their residence, thus relieving said corporate authorities of the expense of such insane persons. The provisions of this same enactment are found in substance in section 4850 of the Revised Statutes, in which the governor of the District is named as the authority upon whose application such insane persons shall be admitted. Undoubtedly the District, under this law, is compelled to bear a burden which does not rightfully belong to it. There is reason to believe that in many cases, if not all, persons who should be a charge upon their friends, or upon the corporate authorities of other cities, are brought here with a view of procuring their admission into the insane asylum at the expense of the District. Whenever persons have been admitted to the asylum in accordance with the provisions of law above cited, it would seem that the District is chargeable with the expense during the continuance of the insane person at the asylum; but, in my judgment, the clothing of the patients, the charge for which in the account before me is about \$200, was not designed by the law to be a part of this expense. It would rather seem that board and medical treatment constitute that expense attendant upon the admission of the patient into the insane asylum to be borne by the District.

As respects auditing the charge for board, I would suggest that the auditor should request evidence that such non-resident insane were admitted at the instance of the District authorities. This suggestion is made not because there is any reason to doubt the accuracy of the accounts submitted by Dr. Nichols, but because the accounting officers, in auditing or certifying any account against the District, ought to have before them full evidence of all the facts bringing the account or claim within the provisions of law pertaining to the subject-matter. Indeed, it would be well to obtain full information concerning the time and circumstances of the admission of the seventeen non-residents in respect of whom this account is rendered, with a view of ascertainment as to the friends and residences of these insane persons, and thus relieving the District of the expense and charge attendant upon their continuance in the insane asylum. The ascertainment of these facts, in order to relieve the District of the expense, is a duty made incumbent upon the authorities by the provision of law above cited.

In view of the present condition of the District finances, it would also be eminently proper that this matter should be brought to the attention of the appropriation committees of Congress, with the view to procuring an appropriation to meet this expense. Undoubtedly it is an expense imposed upon the District by an act of Congress, and is an unjust charge upon the District treasury. Re-imbursement of such expenses paid in the past might also be sought. The accounts, by referring to the enactment above mentioned, show on their face that the expense is not one which the District treasury should bear. It would seem that the District has been paying the expense of clothing, board, and medical treatment of non-resident insane for many years.

Very respectfully,

EDWIN L. STANTON,
Attorney for the District.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D. C., February 12, 1875.

SIR: The commissioners direct me to transmit you herewith a copy of the attorney's opinion respecting the patients in your institution whose care and treatment are an expense to the District government, and, in pursuance of the suggestions therein, would thank you for information respecting the authority under which these patients were admitted, and as far as practicable their former places of residence, with any recommendations you may be pleased to make looking to the relief of the District from this onerous charge.

Very respectfully,

WM. TINDALL,
Secretary.

Dr. C. H. NICHOLS,
Superintendent Government Hospital for Insane.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,
Near Washington, D. C., February 15, 1875.

To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia:

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of your secretary, dated February 12, 1875, transmitting a copy of the opinion of the attorney of the District of Columbia, in respect to the bill of the hospital for the last quarter of 1874, for the support of patients admitted to the institution at the request of the District authorities, and asking for information in regard to the former places of residence of those patients, and for recommendations looking to the relief of the District from the expenses of their care and treatment, and I hasten to respectfully reply as requested.

1. Inclosed herewith is a tabular statement of the names of all the patients treated in this hospital from October 1, 1874, (the date to which payment for the support of this class of patients has been made,) to the present time, under the authority of section 4, act of Congress approved February 7, 1857, and the date of admission, the District authority requesting the admission, all that is here known of the former place of residence, and a brief statement of the character of each of those patients.

2. In respect to the recommendations asked looking to the relief of the District from the cost of the support of this class of patients, it seems to me that the most proper and effective plan to obtain this relief will be to make it the duty of a suitable clerk or officer of the District government, immediately upon the issue by the proper District authority of the request that such a patient be received into the hospital, by personal inquiries of the police authorities, at the hospital and at other places, and by correspondence, to make diligent and persevering efforts to "discover who his or her friends are, or whence he or she came, with a view to the return of such person to such friends or to the place of his or her residence, and thus relieve said corporate authorities of the expense and charge of said indigent insane non-resident." (See section 4, act of February 7, 1857.) Experience will give a suitable person tact and efficiency in this sort of inquiry, and in most cases, I think, he would gain the information necessary to send the patient to his friends or proper place of residence as soon as the patient would be in

a condition to make the journey. As most persons who come into the District in an insane condition are suffering from chronic mental disease, many of them could be properly sent to their friends or the places of their residence as soon as it could be ascertained who the one or where the other are. The authorities of the hospital will gladly assist in the inquiry proposed, if such assistance should be desired; and I think the police authorities of the District will regard it as their duty to furnish an officer to accompany a patient to his friends or place of residence, without charge except for actual expenses, whenever the commissioners shall request them to do so.

I think the most of the patients admitted at the request of the District authorities can be returned to their friends or places of residence, and the District treasury relieved of the expense of their support. Judging from past experience, one-fifth of them will recover, and upon their discharge from the institution take care of themselves; and one-eighth of them will die; that is, if left in the institution till the final issue of hospital life is reached; but after the reductions effected by returning as many as practicable to friends or places of legal residence and by recovery and death, it may be that one-fifth of them will remain upon the hands of the District. In the course of the last five years thirty-two patients only have been sent to the hospital under the provisions of section 4 of the act of February 7, 1857, or an average of a little more than six each year; and under the most effective system of sending them away that is consistent with humanity, it may be that the average number to be constantly supported would equal the average number admitted in each of the last five years, or six, at an annual cost of about \$300 for each patient, or \$1,800 for the whole. The whole cost of sending such patients to their friends or places of residence might be \$700, which would make the whole annual outlay by the District, on account of insanity, \$2,500. I think it entirely practicable to reduce such outlay to that small sum; but if it should continue to average what it was in 1874, or about \$5,500, I am of the opinion that it should be cheerfully and promptly paid from the District treasury. For twenty years the United States, under the operation of section 5 of the act approved March 3, 1855, and section 2 of the act approved February 7, 1857, have supported all the indigent and pauper insane that would have been chargeable to the District of Columbia, had it been subject to the usages, obligations, and laws that prevail in other municipalities of the country, and I should regard an effort to throw upon Congress the expense of supporting a few transient insane persons that humanity and the safety of this community require should be temporarily taken care of here, as is done by all other communities in addition to the care of their own insane, as savoring somewhat of an unreasonable ingratitude. On the 31st of January, 1875, there were under treatment in this hospital 140 females and 108 males; total, 248 civil indigent and pauper patients, who became insane while residing in the District. A few of these may have been in the District too short a time, when they became insane, to have gained a legal residence; but it is safe to say that nine-tenths of them would be chargeable to this community, and their support by it could not be avoided, had not Congress made a more liberal provision for their care and treatment than is enjoyed by any other municipality in the country, perhaps in the whole world. The provision made by Congress for the support of "transient paupers" in a general hospital in this District should not be regarded as a precedent for the support by the General Government of transient insane persons, because (1) the District supports its own sick and other paupers, except the insane; (2) persons sick with ordinary

diseases either recover or die in a short time, and are not likely to come into the District, or be sent into it by their friends, to be imposed upon a United States institution for the treatment of a pneumonia or fever, though they may do so for support, as insane persons, who sometimes live half a century in a state of hopeless insanity; and (3) because it would be much more difficult for the United States than for the District authorities to compel the friends and communities to which insane persons transiently here are chargeable to fulfill their obligations to take charge of such insane persons and re-imburse the outlay that has been made on their account.

As the most of the persons sent to the hospital by the District authorities are at the time of admission destitute of the clothing necessary to make them decent and comfortable, I cannot agree with the attorney of the District that the clothing of such patients "was not designed by the law to be a part of this expense," (the expense to the District of the care of these patients in the hospital,) and upon mature reflection I think Mr. Stanton would change his opinion upon that point. The necessary clothing of an insane person is everywhere deemed as much a part of the expense of his proper care and treatment in an institution for the insane as his food or medical treatment. The act authorizing the municipal authorities to send transient insane persons to the hospital at the expense of such authorities was passed in 1857. No such patient was sent to the hospital before the late war. On January 28, 1864, Congress passed an act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior, in his discretion, to send such persons to the hospital for treatment during the continuance of the war, and no such person was sent to the institution by any District authority and at the expense of the District until July 29, 1870. Fourteen thousand and seventy-four dollars and ninety cents (\$14,074.90) only have been paid to the hospital for the care of this class of patients; \$4,160.81 in an auditor's certificate, which I understand is worth about seventy cents on the dollar, which reduces the value of the receipts from this source to \$12,826.66. The only bill due the hospital on this account is that for the fourth quarter of 1874. The statements and figures contained in this paragraph are given to show that the attorney of the District is in error in supposing that the care of transient insane persons has been a long-continued or large expense to the District.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, &c.,

C. H. NICHOLS,
Superintendent.

No.	Name.	Color.	Date of admission.	At whose request.	Place of residence.	Character of case.
1	Reed, Stephen *Taken to Prince George's County, Md., June 28, 1875, by District commissioners.	Colored.	7, 29, 1870	Mayor of Washington, D. C.	Not known; supposed to be from Maryland. No relatives or friends known.	Chronic dementia. Not considered violent, but is rather suspicious and sullen. *June, 1875.—No change. Works regularly in stable.
2	Wise, Amelia..... *August 11, 1875. Remains in the hospital without material change.	White	8, 15, 1870	Mayor of Washington, D. C.	Not positively known; says she lived in Washington and was a midwife. Margaret Hook, living with J. H. Collins, 448 K Street northwest, knew something of her.	Chronic dementia. Native of Germany. Generally quiet and dull, but at times violent. *June 30, 1875.—Remains in hospital without material change.
3	Hyne, Charles H. *Sent to New York, June 15, 1875, by District commissioners.	White	1, 19, 1871	Mayor of Washington, D. C.	Nativity, New York City. His mother, Mrs. Sarah K. Hyne, resides at present at 164 East One hundred and twenty-sixth street, Harlem, N. Y.	Congenital imbecility. General health good. Mild and harmless.
4	McDonnis, Patrick..... *Sent to Providence, R. I., June 15, 1875, by District commissioners. August 16, 1875.—Recently learned that this man spent a few days in New York City Asylum on Ward's Island, and then went on his way to Providence.	White	4, 24, 1871	Mayor of Washington, D. C.	Not known. He says himself that he has a brother living in Providence, R. I., but have never heard from him.	*June, 1875.—No change. Did considerable wood-work. Chronic mania. Has exalted and extravagant delusions in regard to his own importance, wealth, and position. Not considered violent. About 55 years of age. Has been paralyzied on one side. *June, 1875.—No change.
5	Fitts, Lucy A. *Sent to Massachusetts by District commissioners. July 2, 1875.—Entirely harmless, and believed to be well able to travel to her home if provided with the means. August 16, 1875.—Recently learned that Miss Fitts reached her home in safety, and has since been placed in the Massachusetts State Lunatic Hospital at Taunton.	White	6, 10, 1871	Governor of District of Columbia.	Fitchburg, Mass. Her father, Robert Fitts, and brothers Robert and Samuel there. A sister, Mrs. T. C. Kenyon, lives in Akron, Ohio.	Chronic dementia. Came to Washington to marry the late Charles Sumner. Will not believe that he is dead, and still determined to marry him. A woman of good education and probably of worthy life.
6	Smith, Woolford *Sent to Fredericksburg, Va., June 30, 1875, by District commissioners.	Colored.	8, 26, 1871	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Near Fredericksburg, Va.	Chronic dementia with epilepsy. Considered a dangerous man.
7	Ten Eyck, Sophronia, alias Henderson.	White	2, 16, 1872	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Not known. Says Henry J. Daggett, coal-yard, Cincinnati, Ohio, is her brother.	*June, 1875.—Became mild unless molested in the irritable condition that followed a fit. Chronic mania. No history except what she gives herself. Says a former husband, Ten

1	Says her maiden name was Sophronia Kaud. *Sent to Cincinnati, Ohio, June 15, 1875, by the commissioners of the District of Columbia; once a patient in Longview Asylum, Hamilton County, Ohio.	White ..	6, 13, 1872	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Marlborough, Prince George's County, Md. Sister, Mrs. Sarah L. Martin, Uniontown, Pa. C.	in-law, and that John Dubois, well known in Methodist circles in Cincinnati, is her uncle. Have written both parties, and letters returned through dead-letter office.	Eyck, kept a hotel in the city. Is a woman of violent temper and exceedingly abusive with her tongue. Thinks she is maliciously pursued by a man of the name of J. B. Macy. Hears false voices. *June, 1875.—Less under influence of her delusions than formerly, and more manageable, but subject to occasional outbursts of violent language. Is as able, probably, to take care of herself as she has been for a number of years before her admission to the hospital, when she supported herself by selling hair-oil, tracts, &c. Chronic mania, with delusions. Considered a dangerous patient. *June, 1875.—Active manifestations of insanity ceased for several months, and been safely trusted and mild. Chronic dementia. A tearing, noisy, restless, and sometimes quarrelsome patient. Went to Connecticut three years before admission, and was taken insane there. Said to have been in an asylum in New York City, and then sent home to her father. Age about 24. *June 30, 1875. Not quite as noisy as formerly. Threatened with phthisis.
2	Jones, Richard F. *Taken to Prince George's County, Md., June 28, 1875.	White ..	6, 20, 1872	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Became insane in Connecticut. Thomas Barnes, her father, lives on Virginia avenue, between First and Second streets, southeast.		
3	Barnes, Winnefurf *August 15, 1875.—Remains in hospital.	White ..	6, 20, 1872	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Says she belongs near Marlborough, Prince George's County, Md. No relatives known, but patient says she has brothers living in the city, whose names are Robert, Henry, William, and Charles Stewart.		
4	Stewart, Eliza H. *Taken to Prince George's County, Md., June 28, 1875, by District commissioners.	Colored .	9, 9, 1872	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Not known. He says himself that he has a brother living at Albany, N. Y.		Chronic mania. Quiet and manageable under proper supervision, but an unsafe person to be at large. *June, 1875.—After above report was prepared, we learned that this man had been in prison at Auburn, N. Y., for theft, and transferred to Asylum for Criminal Lunatics, and discharged therefrom as fit to be at large. A harmless imbecile *June, 1875.—No change.
5	Wright, William *Sent to Albany, N. Y., June 30, 1875, by District commissioners.	White ..	10, 3, 1872	Governor of the District of Columbia.	His supposed residence is somewhere in Western Virginia; the address of friends and relatives not known.		Chronic dementia. Native of Ireland. Age about 40. Patient is generally very quiet, but sometimes violent. Nothing known of her except what she tells herself. *June, 1875.—Became more demented and passive, and rarely violent.
6	Witzell, James *Sent to West Virginia, June 15, 1875, by District commissioners.	White ..	10, 7, 1872	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Not known. Says she has been a type-setter in New York City, and has been in the asylum at Utica, N. Y.		
7	Campbell, Bridget *Taken to New York, July 2, 1875, by District commissioners.	White ..	12, 12, 1872	Governor of the District of Columbia.			

No.	Name.	Color.	Date of admission.	At whose request.	Place of residence.	Character of case.
14	Black, Thomas. *Sent to New York, June 30, 1875, by the District commissioners.	White ..	12, 30, 1872	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Supposed to be New York City. Address of friends not known.	Chronic mania. He is subject to attacks of violence. Would be an unsafe person to be trusted beyond proper control. *June, 1875.—Cross and threatening, but never committed any violence while at the hospital.
15	Forco, Moses M. *Taken to Maryland Hospital for Insane, June 28, 1875, after his discharge had been authorized by District commissioners.	White ..	1, 1, 1873	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Baltimore, Md. Wife resides at present at 131 Camden street, Baltimore, Md.	Chronic mania. Has been very insane, but is in a much improved condition. His mind is weak, but I think he could be safely cared for by his family. *June, 1875.—Continued to improve.
16	Curran, James. *Sent to New York City, June 15, 1875, by District commissioners.	White ..	2, 13, 1873	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Not known. He says that he has lived in Mount Holly, N. J. Address of friends unknown.	Chronic dementia. Harmless, and in good physical health, and is willing and able to do some manual labor. *June, 1875.—No change.
17	Walton, Louisa. Eloped May 3, 1875.	White ..	3, 11, 1874	Governor of the District of Columbia.	Believed to be Olive E. Dutton, a native of Ludlow, Mass., about 25 years of age. If so, she ran away with a friend of the name of Charles Francis and lived with him as his wife for some time in New York City. She left him or he cast her off, and since that time she appears to have lived with several other men, in Saint Louis, Mo., Chicago, Ill., and New York City. She has a child about seven years old in the Children's Hospital, Washington. Has been in several jails or prisons.	This woman was sent here on account of the habit of using opium to great excess. That practice and her other excesses have greatly impaired her constitution, and she looks like a woman of 40 or more. She is well educated. She now takes no opium, and is as well able to go at large as she is ever likely to be, but will probably resume the use of opium soon after resumption is withdrawn and resume her habits of passing counterfeit checks, money, &c. There appears to be no moral reform. *May 3, 1875.—No material change.
18	Brack, Robert F. *Sent to Asheville, N. C., by District commissioners, June 15, 1875.	White ..	1, 22, 1875	Commissioners of the District of Columbia.	Asheville, Buncombe County, N. C. Step-father, Joel McIntire, same address.	Recurrent mania. Has been gradually improving since admission, and will probably be in a condition to render it safe for him to return home in the course of a few weeks. There is a railroad-ticket at police headquarters which will return him nearly to his home. This ticket was purchased with the proceeds of a sale of his personal effects. *June, 1875.—Continued to improve. The railroad-ticket proved to be only to Fredericksburg, Va., and was returned to police headquarters.
19	Barnett, Mary E. *Sent to Saint Louis, Mo., June 15, 1875, by District commissioners.	Colored ..	1, 22, 1875	Commissioners of the District of Columbia.	Comes from Saint Louis, Mo. Mr. E. C. Ketchum, 210 North Fifth street, Saint Louis, Mo., knows her only as a servant in his family for a few months. No relatives known.	Dementia. Came on from Saint Louis, Mo., to see the President on imaginary business. Insanity is said by Mr. Ketchum, of Saint Louis, Mo., to have been caused by habitual drinking. This patient is now apparently

20	Campbell, George W. *Taken to New York June 15, 1875 by District commissioners.	White ..	1, 29, 1875	Commissioners of the District of Columbia.	Selma, Dallas County, Ala. Formerly lived in New York, and wished to return there to live. Is a hatter.	well enough to be sent back. Age, about 40. *June, 1875.—No change. Entirely able to travel to her home by herself if furnished with ticket. Mania, and probably chronic. An unsafe person to be beyond the control of proper supervision and care. *June, 1875.—Improved, and thought to be in a condition to take care of himself. Mania, with delusions. Came to Washington, D. C., with the intention of marrying the President's daughter. Was sent to Baltimore, Md., by the authorities, but returned. *June, 1875.—Gladly improved; delusions subsided; mind weak. Appeared to be a case of chronic mania. Arrested in Washington and sent here without history; said he came to Washington to see "Ben. Butler," but never could explain what he wished to see him for; talk rambling and incoherent; spoke English imperfectly; appeared to be harmless. June, 1875.—Physical and mental condition much improved. Said he came to Washington to see the President about the contents of a letter which he threw into one of the windows of the White House, and to make the President give him work. Is a ship-calker. He improved, and said he would go to New York and remain there if allowed his liberty.
21	Lehorn, A. Lord. *Sent to New York City, June 15, 1875, by District commissioners.	White ..	2, 7, 1875	Commissioners of the District of Columbia.	Native of Russia. A sailor. Came to Washington, D. C., from New York City. Address of friends unknown.	
22	Kluge, Ludwig A. H. Sent back to New York, June 15, 1875, by District commissioners.	White ..	3, 27, 1875	Commissioners of the District of Columbia.	Native of Germany. Came here from New York City; at least so he said. Friends unknown.	
23	Galligar, Luke. Sent back to New York, June 15, 1875, by District commissioners.	White ..	5, 5, 1875	Commissioners of the District of Columbia.	Appeared to be an Irishman. Came here from New York City. Friends unknown.	

NOTE.—The memoranda in the foregoing table marked by asterisks were added in the copy furnished for the information of the Secretary of the Interior, to the original table prepared for and furnished to the District Commissioners in February, 1875, in order to show the present condition or final disposition of the cases named. The last two cases were not included in the original table, the parties having been admitted subsequent to its preparation.

DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN POLICE,
OFFICE OF MAJOR AND SUPERINTENDENT,
Washington, D. C., August 6, 1875.

To the Editor of the Tribune :

In regard to the recent sending to their homes of certain non-resident patients, then under treatment at the asylum for the insane in this District, it is due to truth that it be stated that Dr. Nichols, the superintendent of the asylum, took no part, nor did he have any agency, in sending those patients away, further than to furnish information, when requested to do so by the authorities who placed them in his charge, concerning their previous history and their status in the asylum. Dr. Nichols could not lawfully have retained those patients in the asylum after the authorities who placed them in his charge had withdrawn their support. He was in duty bound to deliver them to those authorities, or their agents, when called for. Such is the only part taken in this matter by Dr. Nichols. Nor did he have any knowledge, previous or subsequent to their removal, of the arrangements for the disposition of those patients.

If there was any inhumanity practiced toward those persons, Dr. Nichols is not responsible by act, advice, or suggestion.

Under a full statement of facts and circumstances, I willingly myself assume all responsibility as to the manner in which those patients were sent away.

Very respectfully,

A. C. RICHARDS,
Major and Superintendent.

Letter to Surgeon-General Barnes.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., August 25, 1875.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to refer to you herewith a copy of a communication from this Department to Dr. C. H. Nichols, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, requesting him to report certain details of the management of that institution, and also his reply to said communication, with accompanying documents, and to request that you do me the favor to examine said correspondence and give me your views of the course pursued by him in regard to the matters complained of, and whether, in your opinion, he has violated or neglected any legal or professional duty or any requirement of humanity in his treatment of the patients placed in his charge by the authorities of the District. I will be pleased to have you make such additional investigation of the matter as you deem necessary to satisfy yourselves in regard to the subject of the correspondence.

A similar communication has been sent to the other gentlemen mentioned below.

When the occasion for the use of the original papers transmitted herewith shall no longer exist, I will thank you for the return of the same to this Department.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

General JOSEPH K. BARNES,
WALTER S. COX, Esq.,
Dr. JOSEPH M. TONER,
Washington, D. C.

Letter to Walter S. Cox, Esq.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., August 25, 1875.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to refer to you herewith a copy of a communication from this Department to Dr. C. H. Nichols, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, requesting him to report certain details of the management of that institution, and also his reply to said communication, with accompanying documents, and to request that you do me the favor to examine said correspondence and give me your views of the course pursued by him in regard to the matter complained of, and whether, in your opinion, he has violated or neglected any legal or professional duty or any requirement of humanity in his treatment of the patients placed in his charge by the authorities of the District. I will be pleased to have you make such additional investigation of the matter as you deem necessary to satisfy yourselves in regard to the subject of the correspondence.

A similar communication has been sent to the other gentlemen mentioned below, and the papers above referred to have been transmitted to General J. K. Barnes.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

General JOSEPH K. BARNES,
WALTER S. COX, Esq.,
Dr. JOSEPH M. TONER,
Washington, D. C.

Letter to Dr. J. M. Toner.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., August 25, 1875.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to refer to you herewith a copy of a communication from this Department to Dr. C. H. Nichols, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, requesting him to report certain details of the management of that institution, and also his reply to said communication, with accompanying documents, and to request that you do me the favor to examine said correspondence and give me your views of the course pursued by him in regard to the matters complained of, and whether, in your opinion, he has violated or neglected any legal or professional duty or any requirement of humanity in his treatment of the patients placed in his charge by the authorities of the District. I will be pleased to have you make such additional investigation of the matter as you deem necessary to satisfy yourselves in regard to the subject of the correspondence.

A similar communication has been sent to the other gentlemen mentioned below, and the papers above referred to have been transmitted to General J. K. Barnes.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary.

General JOSEPH K. BARNES,
WALTER S. COX, Esq.,
Dr. JOSEPH M. TONER,
Washington, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT, SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., August 31, 1875.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt this morning (after a brief absence) of your communication of the 25th instant and inclosures.

Before the action of the District commissioners in causing the removal from the Government Hospital for the Insane of such inmates as were not properly chargeable to the District was generally known, I had, in consequence of information reaching me early in July, most thoroughly examined into all the circumstances, and fully satisfied myself that the superintendent could not have refused compliance with the directions of the District commissioners, and that in complying with them he had not "violated or neglected any professional duty or any requirement of humanity in his treatment of the patients placed in his charge by the authorities of the District," but, on the contrary, had evinced the greatest solicitude and interest in their welfare, submitting for the information of such authorities a most carefully prepared statement of the actual condition of each patient.

Having now read Dr. Nichols's report to you of August 15, 1875, I am prepared to vouch for its absolute correctness in all particulars, and to state, further, that I believe that I heard of the outrage perpetrated upon the three inmates removed from the institution under authority of the District government and by their authorized agents on the night of June 28, 1875, before it was known to Dr. Nichols or at the hospital.

The original papers transmitted on the 25th instant are respectfully returned.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. K. BARNES,

*Surgeon-General United States Army, and
Visitor to Government Hospital for the Insane.*

Hon. B. R. COWEN,

Acting Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1875.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 25th ultimo.

I have read the correspondence referred to and made other examination of the subject-matter to which it relates, and am satisfied that the course pursued by Dr. Nichols was in accordance with law and professional duty as well as the requirements of humanity.

During an experience of about fourteen years as a visitor to the Government Hospital for the Insane, I have never had reason to think that the treatment of patients by Dr. Nichols was other than kind and humane in a marked degree.

Very respectfully, yours,

WALTER S. COX.

Hon. B. R. COWEN,

Acting Secretary of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 10, 1875.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your communication of the 25th ultimo referring to me and other gentlemen whom you mention a copy of

your letter to Dr. Charles H. Nichols, superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, relative to the discharge of certain non-resident pauper insane from that institution, and his report upon the subject, with the request that I would read them and give my "views of the course pursued by him in regard to the matter complained of, and whether in your [my] opinion he has violated any legal or professional duty or any requirement of humanity in the treatment of the patients placed in his charge by the District authorities."

In reply, I beg leave to state that I have read with care the documents and letters relating to the discharge of the patients referred to, and also the law under which such patients are sent to the Government Hospital for the Insane, and I submit the following as the result of my reflection:

The law governing this case is referred to in both Attorney E. L. Stanton's opinion of February 4, 1875, and in Dr. C. H. Nichols's letter of February 15, 1875, and which are part of the documents in question. This law only contemplates the temporary care of such patients until the municipal authorities can learn who are the friends of such insane persons and their place of legal residence, with a view to their return. The duty of ascertaining these facts and of returning such patients to their friends or former homes seems to be left by the law with the District authorities sending such cases to the hospital. Indeed, there seems to be no exception taken by the commissioners to the intent of the law and their duty, but it is accepted as binding, as is shown by the letter of their secretary, William Tyndall, to Dr. Nichols, which bears date of February 12, 1875. In this letter the secretary says: "And, in pursuance of the suggestions therein, [alluding to the inclosed opinion of the attorney for the District,] would thank you [Dr. Nichols] for information for the authority under which these patients were admitted, and as far as practicable their former places of residence, with any recommendations you may be pleased to make looking to the relief of the District from this onerous charge."

In Dr. Nichols's reply he recites the various acts under which he is directed to receive non-resident pauper insane patients sent to the hospital by the District authorities. He furnishes the commissioners with a tabulated statement of the names of such patients as have been sent under this law, with the date of their admission, their present condition, the names of their friends, and also the place of their former residence when known. As requested, he also furnished some very judicious suggestions as to the mode of returning such persons to the place of their former homes. This letter seems to have been satisfactory to the commissioners, and upon its receipt they intrusted the execution of the law governing the case to the chief of police, Maj. A. C. Richards, and that gentleman, in his letter of August 6, 1875, specifically states that he alone was responsible for the manner in which the instructions of the commissioners were executed, and that Dr. Nichols had nothing to do with the matter. There is no intimation that these patients were not all non-resident paupers, or that they had any claims upon the Government of the United States or the District of Columbia beyond the humane care they had already received from the municipal authorities.

The principle seems to be a settled one with institutions of this character, that they are in no sense a prison, and that parties placing patients there have the right to withdraw them. The condition of all the patients removed was such that no harm, considering the season, was likely to occur to them while *in transitu* to their friends.

From the most careful consideration which I have been able to give to the subject, I am persuaded that Dr. Nichols has not in this matter in anywise violated the law or been negligent in professional duty or in the observance of the requirements of humanity; and further, that, considering the law applicable to this class of patients and the usage of such hospitals, he could not have done otherwise than surrender the patients when called upon by the agents of the District commissioners.

My knowledge of the humanity and professional acquirements of Dr. Nichols, as well as of his long and admirable management of the Government Hospital for the Insane, gives me the utmost confidence in him for tender care of patients, regard for law, professional skill, and efficiency.

I remain, very respectfully, yours,

J. M. TONER.

Hon. B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary Interior Department.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, October 13, 1875.

SIR: We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a correspondence relating to the release from the Government Hospital for the Insane, of certain patients, and requesting such information bearing upon the subject-matter as may be in our possession.

In January, 1875, an account against the District for board, medical treatment, and clothing of seventeen patients admitted to the institution above mentioned, under authority of section 4 of an act of Congress approved February 7, 1857, was transmitted to us. This account was for the quarter ending December 31, 1874, and amounted to \$1,312.84. After examination of the law and facts it was duly audited and paid. Our attention was thus called to the enactment under which the District of Columbia was required to incur expenditures of this nature. The provisions of the congressional enactment above mentioned are now incorporated in section 4850 Revised Statutes of the United States, which is as follows:

"Any indigent insane person who did not reside in the District at the time he became insane, may, in like manner, upon the certificate of a judge or justice and the application of a member of the board of visitors, be admitted into the hospital upon the application of the governor of the District, and at the expense of the District, during the continuance of such insane person therein, it being hereby designed to give the superintendent thereof authority to take charge of such insane person until the governor can discover who his friends are or whence he came, with a view to the return of such person to such friends or to the place of his residence, and thus relieve the District of the expense and charge of such indigent insane non-resident." This statute contemplates the temporary continuance of indigent, non-resident, insane persons in the Government Hospital at the expense of the District until the municipal authorities can discover who the friends of such patients are or whence they came, with a view to their being returned to their friends or to the place of their residence, and the District being relieved of the expense and charge of such indigent, insane, non-residents.

It became our duty, therefore, to endeavor to discover who were the friends of the seventeen, or, as afterward ascertained, twenty non-residents who were receiving board, medical treatment, and clothing, at the expense of the District, or whence they came, in order that they might be returned and the District be relieved of the expense. Attention to the duty thus devolved by the law upon us was the more urgently required, because it was reported to us that in many cases insane persons who should have been a charge upon their friends or upon the corporate authorities, were brought into the District just for the purpose of procuring their admission into the insane asylum under the above-cited enactment, and their maintenance therein, including board, medical treatment, and clothing, at the expense of the District.

In order to obtain the information which the law required us to procure, we requested and received from the superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, a tabular statement of the names of these non-resident patients, together with all the facts concerning them in the possession of the superintendent. The subject was then referred to the superintendent of the metropolitan police, with instructions to obtain such additional information as he could, respecting the friends and places of residence of these patients.

Having conferred with the superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, and having obtained information from other quarters, the superintendent of metropolitan police, on June 12, reported to us a list of the non-resident insane under treatment at the hospital at the expense of the District, indicating upon this list those patients who, in the opinion of the physicians at the asylum, needed escort to their respective residences, and those who did not require it. A copy of this communication is hereto appended, marked "A."

It was not practicable for us to personally provide transportation and personally escort these patients to their friends or places of residence. It was a matter which had to be intrusted to other municipal officers. The superintendent of metropolitan police seemed a proper officer to whom to commit it. We had and have confidence in his intelligence, humanity, and carefulness. The requisite authority to obtain transportation of these persons to their residence was, therefore, given to him, and he was instructed to consult with the authorities at the asylum, and he did so. On July 6, the superintendent of metropolitan police reported to us that he had sent to their homes twenty (20) non-resident insane patients, who were being supported at the Government insane asylum at the expense of the District, and that those who required it had been accompanied by escorts.

The superintendent of metropolitan police had been instructed to leave these patients in charge of their friends or of the proper authorities at their respective homes. Under date of August 7, we requested information from that officer as to whether these instructions had been complied with and as to whether he was aware of any unkind treatment shown to these patients on the part of the officials whom he charged with the duty of returning them to their homes. A copy of the answer of the superintendent to these inquiries is hereto appended, marked "B." This communication and the one addressed to yourself by the superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane, under date of August 16, show that most of the patients were but slightly deranged, were familiar with the routes to their homes, were desirous of being permitted to go, and could safely be allowed to do so without escorts. But after careful consultation between the superintendent of the Government hospital, the physicians subordinate to him, and the superintendent of

police, escorts were sent in all those cases in which that precautionary measure seemed to be in any degree advisable. In no instance, to our knowledge, has any complaint been made by the friends of any of these patients.

With reference to three (3) persons who were sent to Prince George County, Maryland, the place of their residence, a distance of some sixteen miles, there were, however, some criticisms from other sources than the friends of the individuals. These three persons had to be sent by private conveyance, and the superintendent of the Government hospital and the superintendent of police both state that the night was selected because the heat of the day-time would have caused suffering both to the patients and the team. The reports of both the officers above mentioned show that these three patients were so well, both mentally and physically, as to be able to go to their homes without escort, if they had simply been discharged from the asylum. But a conveyance was provided in order to make their return more comfortable. The letter of the superintendent of police states that these three persons became separated from their escort while on the way to their homes. It was a culpable neglect of duty on the part of the officer accompanying them to permit this. Perhaps the condition of the patients and their acquaintance with the locality led him to be less careful than he ought to have been. But no other act, in the nature of unkind treatment or neglect, has come to our knowledge.

It appears from the report of the superintendent of the Government Asylum for the Insane that these three persons were well acquainted with the locality and its inhabitants; that their insanity was of a mild and harmless type; and that they reached their homes in safety. Two of them, and friends of the third, have since visited the hospital, and have made no complaint.

Most of the circumstances above stated have come to our knowledge through the reports of the superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane and the superintendent of metropolitan police, and oral communications made by them. Our own connection with the matter was first simply to discharge the duty, imposed upon us by the statute, of taking measures to ascertain who were the friends, and what the former places of residence, of these non-residents whom the law permitted to remain at the hospital temporarily until such discovery should be made; and next to intrust to the proper municipal officer (in whose discretion, humanity, and intelligence we had and have confidence) that return of the patients to their friends or places of residence which the law by its terms requires to be effected as soon as practicable.

Very respectfully,

W. DENNISON,
J. H. KETCHAM,
S. L. PHELPS,

Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

HON. B. R. COWEN,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.

DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN POLICE,
OFFICE OF MAJOR AND SUPERINTENDENT,
Washington, June 12, 1875.

GENTLEMEN: I transmit herewith a list of non-resident patients now under treatment at the Government Asylum for the Insane in this Dis-

trict at the expense of the District of Columbia. I recommend that transportation be furnished to each of these to their respective destinations, as indicated on the inclosed list.

I would suggest that the first eight, who are put down as not needing an escort, be first sent away, and that after they are disposed of, the balance be furnished with escorts to their respective destinations as fast as it is convenient to dispose of them.

Very respectfully,

A. C. RICHARDS,
Major and Superintendent.

To the COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Official copy :

WILLIAM TINDALL,
Secretary.

List of patients not needing escort to their respective destinations.

Charles H. Hyne, Patrick McGinniss, William Wright, Moses M. Force, James Curran, Robert F. Brock, Mary E. Barnett, A. Lord Le-Born. Three to New York City; one to Albany, N. Y.; one Saint Louis; one Providence, R. I.; one Baltimore; and one Asheville, N. C.
Residents of Maryland.—Stephen Reed, Eliza H. Stewart, Richard F. Jones.

List of patients needing escorts to their respective destinations.

Lucy A. Fitts, Wolford Smith, Sophronia Teneyck, James Wetzell, Bridget Campbell, Thomas Black, George W. Campbell. Three to New York; one to Fredericksburgh, Va.; one West Virginia; one Cincinnati; one Fitchburg, Mass.

Residents of Washington.—Winnefurt Barnes, Amelia Wise.

DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN POLICE,
OFFICE OF MAJOR AND SUPERINTENDENT,
Washington, September 7, 1875.

SIR: I am in receipt of yours of the 7th ultimo, making the following inquiries concerning certain patients discharged from the asylum for the insane in this District in June last, viz :

1st. "Whether the verbal understanding between the commissioners and yourself, [myself,] viz, to leave them in charge of their friends, or the proper authorities, at their homes, was carried out."

2d. "If you are aware of any unkind treatment shown on the part of the officials you charged with this service."

In answer to the first of the above, I have to state that the understanding was that if any of the patients were not sufficiently recovered to go safely to their homes without an escort, I was to furnish to such an escort to their homes or places of abode; but I did not understand that any of them were to be delivered to the authorities of any locality.

After an interview with the patients to be sent away it was found, with one or two exceptions, that they were perfectly familiar with the routes to their homes. They all seemed anxious to be permitted to go,

but as a precautionary measure, however, against possible accident, it was decided to send escorts with several of them, which was done. The result proved that an escort to those selected, even, was unnecessary, save in the case of the exceptions referred to above.

In answer to your second inquiry, I would state that I am not aware of any unkind treatment shown these persons on the part of the officials who had them in charge.

In regard to the three persons sent to Prince George's County, Maryland, from whence they had been brought, as I am informed, I would state that unfortunately they became separated from their escorts while on their way to their homes.

The night was selected for the transfer, and because it was thought more comfortable too, on account of the extreme heat of the last days of June, when the hottest of a heated term was upon us; and for the further reason that the owners of teams would not hire them for a trip of the distance proposed in the heat of the day-time. The night selected was pleasant, and no suffering could have resulted to these persons on account of the separation.

Each of these three persons were to all appearances well, both mentally and physically, and could have gone to their homes without escort by simply being discharged from the asylum. But a conveyance was provided to facilitate their going and render it as comfortable as practicable.

I may state further that my attention was first called to the subject of sending these persons to their several places of abode, by Commissioner Phelps, in a conversation as early as March last. Two or three times subsequent to the above-named time I had verbal conversations with one or more of the commissioners of the District on the same subject.

Finally, in June last, probably about the 12th, a list of the patients to be sent away was furnished to me, but whether this list came directly from the asylum or through your office I am unable now to recall. Upon the receipt of this list active measures were taken to dispose of the patients as before stated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. C. RICHARDS,
Major and Superintendent.

Dr. WILLIAM TINDALL,
Secretary to Commissioners District of Columbia.

Official copy.

WILLIAM TINDALL,
Secretary.

